



The globalization of leptospirosis: Worldwide incidence trends

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Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: Leptospirosis continues to be a significant zoonosis of the developing world. Globalization, in the context of international travel, particularly for recreational activities and military expeditions, has led to increased exposure of individuals from the developed world to the disease, as recent outbreaks show. **METHODS:** We evaluated the trends in annual leptospirosis incidence for individual countries worldwide through reports from national and international organizations, the published medical literature on the subject, and web searches with the terms 'leptospirosis' and the individual country names. Inter-country variations in leptospirosis incidence, when relevant official data were available, were also analyzed. **RESULTS:** The Caribbean and Latin America, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, Oceania, and to a lesser extent Eastern Europe, are the most significant foci of the disease, including areas that are popular travel destinations. **CONCLUSIONS:** Leptospirosis is a re-emerging zoonosis of global importance and unique environmental and social correlations. Attempts at global co-ordination and recognition of the true burden of an infectious disease with significant mortality should be encouraged.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia, Australasia, Europe, Central/South America, Non-U.S. North America

Asian Region/Country: Other Asian Region

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Other Asian Region: Indian subcontinent;Southeast Asia

European Region/Country: European Region

Other European Region: Eastern Europe

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Leptospirosis

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified